

Appl. No. 10/527,737
Art Unit: 1655
Response dated December 14, 2007
Reply to Office Action of June 15, 2007

In the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application. The claim identifiers have been updated to reflect that Claims 12-24, 29 and 30 have been withdrawn from consideration. No new claims or amended claims are presented herein.

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-11 (Canceled)

Claim 12 (Withdrawn): A method comprising:

(a) providing a preparation comprising at least one substance which effects a modulation of one or more dermal/epidermal junction components selected from the group consisting of plectin/HD1, entactin/nidogen, perlecan and combinations thereof; and

(b) applying the preparation to a substrate selected from the group consisting of skin, scalp, mucous membrane and combinations thereof.

Claim 13 (Withdrawn): The method according to claim 12, wherein the at least one substance comprises a plant extract.

Claim 14 (Withdrawn): The method according to claim 13, wherein the plant extract is obtained from a plant selected from the group consisting of *Pisum sativum*, *Ruscus aculeatus*, *Centella asiatica*, *Calendula officinalis*, *Aesculus hippocastanum*, *Hibiscus esculentus*, and mixtures thereof.

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Claim 15 (Withdrawn): The method according to claim 12, wherein the at least one substance comprises a component selected from the group consisting of mannitol, cyclodextrin, yeast extracts, panthenol, propylene glycol, ammonium glycyrrhizate, disodium succinate, low molecular weight polypeptides, and mixtures thereof.

Claim 16 (Withdrawn): The method according to claim 12, wherein the preparation comprises two or more substances which effect a modulation of one or more dermal/epidermal junction components selected from the group consisting of plectin/HD1, entactin/nidogen, perlecan and combinations thereof.

Claim 17 (Withdrawn): The method according to claim 12, wherein the at least one substance comprises two or more plant extracts obtained from plants selected from the group consisting of *Pisum sativum*, *Ruscus aculeatus*, *Centella asiatica*, *Calendula officinalis*, *Aesculus hippocastanum*, *Hibiscus esculentus*, and mixtures thereof.

Claim 18 (Withdrawn): The method according to claim 13, wherein the preparation further comprises a component selected from the group consisting of mannitol, cyclodextrin, yeast extracts, panthenol, propylene glycol, ammonium glycyrrhizate, disodium succinate, low molecular weight polypeptides, and mixtures thereof.

Claim 19 (Withdrawn): The method according to claim 17, wherein the preparation further comprises a component selected from the group consisting of mannitol, cyclodextrin, yeast extracts, panthenol, propylene glycol, ammonium glycyrrhizate, disodium succinate, low molecular weight polypeptides, and mixtures thereof.

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Claim 20 (Withdrawn): The method according to claim 12, wherein the preparation further comprises a component having anti-protease activity.

Claim 21 (Withdrawn): The method according to claim 12, wherein the preparation further comprises a component selected from the group consisting of UV protection factors, antioxidants and mixtures thereof.

Claim 22 (Withdrawn): The method according to claim 12, wherein the preparation comprises a *Ruscus aculeatus* root extract, a *Centella asiatica* extract, a *Calendula officinalis* flower extract, a *Aesculus hippocastanum* extract and a *Hibiscus esculentus* extract.

Claim 23 (Withdrawn): The method according to claim 22, wherein the preparation further comprises a component selected from the group consisting of propylene glycol, panthenol, a hydrolyzed yeast protein, ammonium glycyrrhizate and mixtures thereof.

Claim 24 (Withdrawn): The method according to claim 12, wherein the at least one substance comprises a hydrolyzed *Hibiscus esculentus* extract.

Claim 25 (Previously presented): A cosmetic preparation comprising: (a) at least one substance which effects a modulation of one or more dermal/epidermal junction components selected from the group consisting of plectin/HD1, entactin/nidogen, perlecan and combinations thereof; and (b) a component selected from the group consisting of UV protection factors, antioxidants and mixtures thereof.

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Claim 26 (Previously presented): The cosmetic preparation according to claim 25, wherein the at least one substance comprises a plant extract.

Claim 27 (Previously presented): The cosmetic preparation according to claim 26, wherein the plant extract is obtained from a plant selected from the group consisting of *Pisum sativum*, *Ruscus aculeatus*, *Centella asiatica*, *Calendula officinalis*, *Aesculus hippocastanum*, *Hibiscus esculentus*, and mixtures thereof.

Claim 28 (Previously presented): The cosmetic preparation according to claim 25, wherein the at least one substance comprises a component selected from the group consisting of mannitol, cyclodextrin, yeast extracts, panthenol, propylene glycol, ammonium glycyrrhizate, disodium succinate, low molecular weight polypeptides, and mixtures thereof.

Claim 29 (Withdrawn): A cosmetic preparation comprising two or more plant extracts obtained from plants selected from the group consisting of *Pisum sativum*, *Ruscus aculeatus*, *Centella asiatica*, *Calendula officinalis*, *Aesculus hippocastanum*, *Hibiscus esculentus*, and mixtures thereof.

Claim 30 (Withdrawn): The cosmetic preparation according to claim 29, wherein the two or more plant extracts comprise a *Ruscus aculeatus* root extract, a *Centella asiatica* extract, a *Calendula officinalis* flower extract, a *Aesculus hippocastanum* extract and a *Hibiscus esculentus* extract.

Claim 31 (Previously presented): The cosmetic preparation according to claim 27, wherein the plant extract is obtained from *Hibiscus esculentus*.